

As a holder of a general amateur license in the amateur radio service, I recognize that it is clearly time to discontinue the use of morse code proficiency as a determinant for granting operating privileges in the HF radio spectrum.

1. The international community has already determined that knowledge of morse is not essential and is in fact a detriment to the growth of amateur radio as a hobby.
2. Morse code is not essential for emergency operations. There is no data to substantiate the need for morse skills during emergency communications operations. Voice and digital communications are the modes of choice in all recent emergency operations utilizing amateur radio operators.
3. Amateur radio will survive this change regardless of what the doomsayers predict. And it will be a better service since a minority group with adept at a single mode of communications will no longer have a strangle hold on the hobby. Change is good and we should look forward to it.

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